

**Workforce Partnership of Greater Rhode Island
Quality Assurance Committee Meeting Minutes
February 27, 2008**

Members Present: Mike Cassidy, Joe DesRoches, Ray Filippone, Kim Weiss, Diane Cook, Diane Karcz and Steve Wilson

Members Absent: Ernie Vergano, Ed Sneesby, Vincent Balasco and Paul Harden

Staff: Nick Ucci, Dottie Miller and Patrice Cavanaugh

Guests: Mavis McGetrick, Kathy Partington and Donna Chaput

With a quorum present, Chairman Mike Cassidy called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m. A motion was entered to approve the April 24, 2007 Committee meeting minutes.

VOTE: Joe DesRoches moved to approve, Diane Cook seconded. The motion passed.

One-Stop Update

Kathy Partington provided the Committee with an update on the One-Stop Career Centers. She reported that the Warren and Wakefield offices had been closed and that the Newport office had one full-time staff person. Kathy stated that there is a combined total of 47 staff in the Providence, Pawtucket, West Warwick and Woonsocket offices. Kathy noted that the philosophy of the One-Stop Career Centers has changed dramatically since their

inception in 1997; they are now focused on skill assessment for both industry and job seekers. She informed the Committee that there are now Youth Centers in the Providence and Pawtucket offices. Kathy emphasized the leveraging of resources and partnerships that are taking place in the Centers, noting that the Pawtucket office could be receiving Community Development Block Grant funds for infrastructure development. Kathy stated that through the Industry Skills Development Initiative the Centers will be upgrading their technology, both software and hardware, and will conduct additional staff development and training activities. Kathy stressed that the new software will be more in-line with the needs of industry. She added that the software being researched included Career Scope, Electronic TABE Test, SkillsSoft, Provelt and GeoSolutions. Kathy stated that she will present a progress report on the procurement and implementation process of these applications to the Governors Workforce Board RI in May 2008.

WIA Performance Update

Nick Ucci informed the Committee that the 2nd quarter Workforce Investment Act (WIA) performance data was not available, but that it would be available for the March meeting. Nick reviewed the 1st quarter WIA performance data, stating that the WPGRI did not meet performance for two Adult program measures and three Older Youth program measures. He stated that this data had been reviewed with the full Board and that, at the time, projections showed that the WPGRI would likely pass its Adult performance measures in the 2nd

quarter. Nick explained that, due to the past poor performance of some vendors, Older Youth performance measures were suffering. He added that these poor-performing contracts had been deobligated by the Board, but that their performance would remain an issue for cumulative reporting until the WIA reporting period out-dates the contract period.

New Business

Chairman Mike Cassidy stated that one of the Committee's responsibilities is to oversee the awards process for the Annual Meeting. Dottie Miller stated that recent changes at the One-Stop Centers and new industry-driven training initiatives may require that the Committee review the existing awards categories. Dottie suggested that the topic be tabled until the March meeting, allowing staff to discuss the matter and report back to the Committee on their findings. Chairman Mike Cassidy asked the committee to email any ideas they may have regarding this issue to Nick Ucci or Dottie Miller.

Nick Ucci offered to send information on past award categories to Committee members.

Joe DesRoches announced that the Veterans Service Unit, which had received a 5-year grant from the Department of Labor, achieved all of its performance measurements and exceeded the outcomes in seven of these measures.

Chairman Mike Cassidy reviewed the meeting schedule for the remainder of the year and the Committee agreed to keep the current scheduled meeting dates. The Committee agreed that the meeting time should be changed to 8:30 a.m.

With no other business to discuss, Chairman Mike Cassidy asked for a motion to adjourn.

VOTE: Joe DesRoches moved to adjourn, Diane Karcz seconded. The motion passed.

**Respectfully submitted,
Patrice Cavanaugh**